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INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN HUMANITIES

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1999

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Seminars

Department of Japanese Studies

A STUDY OF "EMPIRE"

(coordinated by Professor YAMAMOTO, Y., April 1998–March 2000)

With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, the identities of nations tended to be strengthened, and new perceptions of nations or states are sought by scholars. Some try to reconsider a modern "nation-state" model based on self-determination of peoples. The alternative to the nation-state, an ideal of "empire", attracts much attention from various kinds of scholars and now becomes a new agenda for academic research.

The aim of this joint research project is to reveal the logic and historical patterns of empires from global and comparative perspectives. The Marxist interpretations of economic imperialism will be reconsidered from new developments of historiography on empires. The regular research seminar will be held every alternate Monday. Two speakers usually read papers and discussions follow. This project is a two-year programme and the final report of joint research will be published in March 2000.

STUDY OF THE INFORMATION IN THE PERIOD OF THE MEIJI REVOLUTION

(coordinated by Professor SASAKI, S., April 1996–March 2001)

The Meiji Revolution was a social change in the information-oriented nineteenth century. Both the authority and the people had to cope with various informations from the inside and outside of the country. This study aims to investigate how they collected, published and used these informations.

LANGUAGE AND THE STABLE SOCIETY

(coordinated by Professor YOKOYAMA, T., April 1999–March 2002)

When human societies stabilise, language seems to undergo significant change. This seminar involves transdisciplinary discussions across the humanities, animal sciences, and ecology to clarify modes of relationship between language and stable societies.

The discussions take as their source notable documents selected mainly from pre-modern Asian and European religions, the performing arts, literature, and sciences.

The participants in this seminar share the idea that the quality of language is one of the crucial elements for any stable society to maintain its vitality. The problem of today is that the seeds for global social stability have been proliferating in the form of new taboos produced by high science and technology, but at the same time the over-specialisation of human activities seems to lead to a gradual decline of the power of language, changing any new trend of stability into that of stagnancy.

Relevant literary texts from 17th- and 18th-century Japan, such as *Shikidō Ōkagami* (lit. the great mirror for the way of man and woman, MSS by Fujimoto Kizan, Kyoto, c. 1690), are annotated regularly at the beginning of each fortnightly meeting.

JAPANESE COLONIAL POLICY TOWARD KOREA AND TAIWAN

(coordinated by Associate Professor MIZUNO, N., April 1998–March 2001)

Korea and Taiwan were the principal colonies of pre-war Japanese Empire. The project's aim is to examine the Japanese colonial rule in Korea and Taiwan, mainly by comparing its policies toward Korea and toward Taiwan, and by analyzing process and mechanism of policy-making. It is also intended to investigate the relation between colonial policies and Japanese domestic politics.

Department of Oriental Studies

TANG RELIGIONS

(coordinated by Professor YOSHIKAWA, T., April 1996–March 2000)

Daoism and Buddhism took a new turn at the Tang period. On the basis of the history of conflicts and harmonies between them ever since the Six Dynasties period, Daoism realized further doctrinal reinforcement, the typical example of which is the *Commentary upon the Laozi* by Emperor Xuanzong of the Tang. On the other hand, there appeared Chan Buddhism, a Chinese transformation of Buddhism, and it had a great influence on the Tang and the succeeding periods. This seminar undertakes the annotated translation of the *Beishanlu* by Shenqing, as a means to clarify various phases of Tang religions. Shenqing was a Buddhist monk from Shu in the ninth century.

CHINESE COMMUNISM AND JAPAN: THOUGHT, MOVEMENT, WAR
(coordinated by Professor HAZAMA, N., April 1997–March 2001)

A result of the history of modern China was the birth of contemporary Chinese state, Peoples's Republic of China (PRC). It is apparent that PRC is the "Communist" state governed by the Chinese Communist Party. To trace the above-mentioned process, needless to say, we must consider the world-wide Communism and its movements that appeared as a historical phenomenon peculiar to the twentieth century. But we especially have to investigate its close relations with Japan (and Korea) in East Asia. This study is intend to focus on Chinese Communism and Japan from three perspectives — thought, movement and war.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA AS REFLECTED IN THE CHINESE BIOGRAPHIES
OF BUDDHIST MONK-TRANSLATORS
(coordinated by Professor KUWAYAMA, S., April 1996–March 2001)

The project aims to deepen our understanding of Buddhist culture and society in Central Asia and the northwestern Subcontinent in the 4th–8th centuries. The interdisciplinary meeting held biweekly (on Mondays) focuses on a detailed reading of the biographies of monks who came to China to translate Buddhist scriptures. Such biographies, edited in the 5th and 8th centuries, are included in the Liang and Tang *Biographies of Eminent Monks*. The five year project begins in April 1996. It is expected to end in March 2001.

THE 'LI' SYSTEMS AND ITS THOUGHT IN CHINA'S PAST
(coordinated by Professor KOMINAMI, I., April 1994–March 2000)

In the past society of China, the 'li' systems had a large influence, not only on official life, but also on the everyday life of the general public. Our study mainly focuses upon various aspects of the 'li' systems; when the systems emerged in Chinese civilization, and how they transformed themselves through the current of times. For the purpose of this research, we take up the text of 'Zhouli', and shed light on aspects of the 'li' thorough close examination of the text.

A STUDY OF THE ART OF THE TANG AND SONG DYNASTIES
(coordinated by Professor SOFUKAWA, H., April 1995–March 2000)

The aim of our resarch is to create a correct and up to date image of the art of the Tang and Song Dynasties from the seventh to thirteenth century. We will analyze the art forms with regard to three things: (1) the vast archaeological materials uneathed since the communist revolution; (2) Buddhist grotto temples such as Longmen and Dunhuang; and (3) aesthetic theory in painting and calligraphy.

THE TRADITION OF TECHNOLOGY IN CHINA

(coordinated by Professor TANAKA, T., April 1996–March 2001)

The aim of this biweekly seminar is to clarify the characteristic of the several fields of the traditional technology and science in China, in particular the fields related with the usual life and domestic sciences. Continued to the former seminar held in 1991–96, at the moment, we read and give the Japanese translation with notes on the most important texts concerning to the agriculture, entitled *Neng Shu (Agricultural Treatise)* by Wang Zhen from 1313 to Yuan dynasty. As well as the philological works, we also plan for the members of different specialties to give their lectures on the various subjects on the history of technology and science in China.

THE DYNAMIC STRUCTURE OF CHINESE MODERNIZATION

(coordinated by Professor MORI, T., April 1998–March 2003)

The encounter with western civilization brought about a great change in China. But how? “Western impact on China” is a word often used to describe the cause of this change. This expression reveals the one-sidedness of the traditional view: the West forced China to change. The traditional social structure of China, however, must have played a fundamental role in accepting the western civilization and modernizing China. Therefore, along with the western impact on China, the transformation and development of Chinese society should be considered. We intend to examine this problem from various points of view — politically, economically, and culturally.

A STUDY OF THE ZHOUSHI-MINGTONG-JI

(coordinated by Professor MUGITANI, K., April 1998–March 2000)

The “Zhoushi-mingtong-ji” is a book recording the interchange between Zhou Ziliang (496–515), — who was a pupil of the Shangqing master Tao Hengjing —, and the immortals in the Dongtian of Mao mountain. This book was compiled by Tao Hengjing immediately after Zhou’s death. These materials in the book, like “Zhen’gao”, are very important sources for understanding the doctrine and activity of Shangqing Taoism in Mao mountain. In this project, we aim to provide the Japanese translation and notes of this book’s recording.

LANGUAGE CONTACT IN THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURY ASIA

(coordinated by Professor TAKATA, T., April 1998–March 2001)

In the 16th and 17th centuries, the Portuguese and the Spanish first came into contact with various exotic languages in Asia. The contact inevitably caused many lexical borrowings for both sides, that is to say, European and Asiatic. It also yielded contact languages such as pidgin and creoles. In this research seminar, we will investigate social and cultural aspects of the language contact of the period, mainly using materials left by the Portuguese and Spanish missionaries.

STUDY OF THE TRADITIONAL METHODS BOOK CATALOGING IN CHINA
(coordinated by Professor KATSUMURA, T., April 1994–March 1999)

The study of cataloging Chinese books, has traditionally considered as a study of learning itself, not as a simple technique of the compilation of catalogues. Fruitful discussions are expected for editing the forthcoming catalogues of Chinese books collected in the Institute Library. The study has the object to informatize and analyze the books, documents and other archives in China, with the help of information from science technology.

Department of Occidental Studies

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF DARWIN EFFECTS
(coordinated by Professor SAKAGAMI, T., April 1999–March 2002)

Since the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, "evolutionism" has produced great effects on various fields, and has given rise to a paradigm shift in modern sciences. The spread of evolutionistic terms, such as "struggle for existence" and "survival of the fittest", seems to be clear evidence of "Darwin Effects", but an evolutionistic way of thinking has also implicitly a tremendous impact on sciences and societies in 20th century. This study attempts to investigate how "evolutionism" has been understood, accepted or criticized in various societies and disciplines, in order to shed some light on characteristics and problems of modern societies and sciences.

SETTLEMENT, MIGRATION AND COMMUNICATION IN COMPARATIVE HISTORY
(coordinated by Professor MAEKAWA, K., April 1998–March 2001)

In pre- and proto-industrial societies where the system of communication was poorly developed, men's attitude toward the outer world could be changed drastically when they had the opportunity of travel. Men could also be greatly influenced by reading books of travels or by talking with others who had once lived in the outer world.

This is a comparative study of how men's idea of the outer world gradually changed in the traditional societies of Europe, the Islamic world and East Asia. Changes which occurred both in the East and West in the later middle and early modern ages are the main topics of our research, for example the gradual development of the system of transportation and communication, increasing changes to make pilgrimages and sightseeing journeys, and growing demand for the books of journeys, missions or expeditions.

FACETS OF CULTURAL HISTORY OF ANCIENT INDIA: TEXT-TRANSMISSION AND MANUSCRIPTS OF VEDIC LITERATURE

(coordinated by Professor IKARI, Y., April 1999–March 2001)

This study intends to prepare a summary information of the prerequisite knowledge for establishing critical texts of Sanskrit, especially those of Vedic literature transmitted in South India.

In dealing with the Vedic Sanskrit texts transmitted in countries of multi lingual situations like South Asia, we have to take into account the problem of possible transformation of the text through ages of transmission owing to various reasons. Before establishing the critical text, we have to consider various factors which may have caused the textual variations: on one hand, there is the time-factor (i.e. historical change of the language system of Sanskrit) and, on the other, the space-factor (i.e. the influence of local languages, both phonetically and scriptually, which are used in the area where the text has been accepted and transmitted).

Through recent field works in South India, we have collected many rare and important old manuscripts of Vedic literature written in scripts of South Indian languages, especially those in old Malayalam script.

With the conjunct effort of experienced Vedic researchers, we try to summarize the basic characteristic features given in these manuscripts and make a contribution to further investigation on this unexplored, nevertheless important study area of the Vedic text-transmission.

A STUDY AVANT-GARDE ART

(coordinated by Professor USAMI, H., April 1997–March 2001)

The Avant-Garde movement in art, at the beginning of the 20th century, gave rise to a radical change of art, as well as in the theory of representation. We intend to re-examine this movement in its whole range. Interaction between different genres such as literature, fine arts, theater, cinema, together with parallel developments in science and technology, changes in the political and social infrastructure, and also the ideological context of the movement — these factors, obviously, will be taken into account. But further, we wish to stress the importance of a comparative point of view which will allow us to embrace various aspects of this artistic experience, extending beyond Western Europe to Japan, China, Russia, the United-States, etc. The period covered will be from the early 20th century to the 1930's. We plan to meet twice a month and, after three years' research reports and discussions, to prepare a final report in the last year with a view to publication.

COLONIALISM AND ANTHROPOLOGY

(coordinated by Visiting Professor YAMAJI, K., April 1997–March 2000)

Many Western anthropologists had been involved in colonial policies since the 19th century. They had also taken serious roles to create special images of other cultures outside the West. These situations are similar to the case of Japan after the Meiji period. This project concerning the comparative studies of colonialism aims to analyze the following themes; comparative studies of colonial policies, roles of anthropologists, and socio-cultural changes in colonized countries.

READING THE DEBATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN 1789

(coordinated by Associate Professor TOMINAGA, S., April 1997–March 2000)

This three-year-long project aims to examine the concept of citizenship through the minute research on the making of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. Before this declaration was definitively adopted on the 26 August in 1789, an impassioned debate on Human rights had been developed in the National Assembly over this summer. In the course of the debate, many authors had been trying to present a number of drafts of the declaration, both inside and outside the Assembly. In the first year of this project, we are mainly occupied with close reading of the proceedings of the Assembly, in order to make translation and commentary of selected drafts in a comparative study of several variants. Such a preliminary stage will contribute to our research in the following years, which intends to shed light on the political and philosophical situation of citizen-making at the beginning of modernity. Sessions will be held fortnightly on Monday afternoon.

A STUDY IN PORNOGRAPHY

(coordinated by Associate Professor OURA, Y., April 1999–March 2002)

Based on analyses of erotic representations using different media, like literary texts, paintings, photographs, films, videos, etc., we will examine the nature of the eros represented therein and the very possibility of its representation, as well as several themes going through them: subject, society, ethnicity, nation, gender, religion, ethics, etc. Taking as a reference the “invention of pornography” in modern Europe, and considering in parallel the erotic representations and cultures in modern and contemporary Japan, along with some cases in China and United-States, we wish to open a horizon for a new theory in this field.

THE COMPILATION OF THE BASIC MATERIALS OF THE SĀMAVEDA

(coordinated by Associate Professor FUJII, M., April 1999–March 2001)

The aim of this project is to compile and edit the basic texts of the Sāmaveda on the basis of all the written materials including manuscripts and editions. The unpublished Jaiminiya texts are our main target, but the textual traditions of the other schools are also within the scope of our study. As the first fruit of the comprehensive research project of the Sāmaveda, we are making a general index of the whole Sāmaveda.

REEXAMINATION OF THEORY AND CRITICISM IN THE 20TH CENTURY
(coordinated by Instructor UENO, N., April 1999–March 2001)

In the first half of the 20th century, the “crisis” of modern human sciences began to surface, and then the problem of how to overcome it became the main subject in various fields: some disciplines were reconstructed from a new perspective; others, such as anthropology and psychoanalysis, were newly formed. And these earthshaking changes of paradigms in modern human sciences must have been, more or less, correlative with the “crisis” of modern society itself. This study attempts to give an immanent analysis of philosophical, scientific and artistic discourse during this period in Europe, America and Japan, in order to shed some light on its complex connection with social and political conditions.